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Message Text

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42
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 074794
O 111300Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3997
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GARORONE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2377

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, XJ
SUBJ: ANC/NKOMO VIEW OF DAR ES ES SALAAM UNITY TALKS

NAIROBI FOR SCHAUFELE

SUMMARY: EDWARD NDLOVU CLOSE CONFIDANT OF JOSHUA
NKOMO MET WITH EMBOFF SEPT 11 TO DISCUSS HIS VERSION
OF WHAT TOOK PLACE IN DAR ES SALAAM UNITY TALKS. HE
OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING NKOMO PLANNED TO DEPART LUSAKA
FOR SALISBURY ON SEPTEMBER 13. THEN NDLOVU MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS: (QL JOSHUA NKOMO HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED BY
ALL "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS AS THE ONLY ZIMBABWEAN
LEADER WITH A NATIONAL FOLLOWING; (2) THIS RECOGNITION
CAME AFTER ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE FOUR YOUNG FREEDOM
FIGHTERS AS TRUE LEADERS OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE
HAD FAILED; (3) ANC/ZANU AND ANC/ZAPU HAD NOT AGREED
THAT THEY SHOULD JOIN FORCES IN BACKING MILITARY
ARM OF ANC (ZIPA); (4) SITHOLE'S DEPARTURE FROM ANC
AND RETURN TO ZANU COLORATION HAS LITTLE POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE (SITHOLE LEFT THA ANC BEVFORE HE WAS
KICKED OUT); (5) PRESIDENT NYERERE WAS DELIBERATELY
PROMOTING THE IDEA THAT ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL
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LEADERS WERE INCAPABLE OF UNIFYING. (6) STATEMENTS

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ABOUT DISUNITY AMONG ZIMBABWEAN POLITICIANS IS HELPFUL TO NYERERE, WHO IS DETERMINED TO SABOTAGE US PEACE EFFORTS BY PROMOTING DISUNITY AMONG ZIMBABWEANS. END SUMMARY.

1. NDLOVU SAID THAT NKOMO HAD NOT CHANGED HIS PLANS IN SPITE OF THE KISSINGER VISIT; HE IS STILL PLANNING TO PROCEED TO SALISBURY MONDAY, SEPT 13.

2. AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS IN DAR ES SALAAM, ALL OF THE PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT JOSHUA NKOMO WAS THE ONLY ZIMBABWEAN POLITICIAN WITH TRULY NATIONAL STANDING. THIS CONCLUSION WAS REACHED AFTER THE PRESIDENTS HAD HEARD OUT OF ALL OF THE RIVAL FACTIONS ONE AFTER THE OTHER NDLOVU SAID HE WAS SURE THE PRESIDENTS HAD COME TO THIS CONCLUSION; HIS SOURCE WAS COMPLETELY RELIABLE. MOREOVER, AFTER THE MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDENTS HAD BROKEN UP, NYERERE HAD APPROACHED NKOMO TO ASK HIM TO BE SURE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PEOPLE IN NKOMO'S GOVERNMENT, ONCE NKOMO TOOK OVER IN ZIMBABWE.

3. AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE BY SOME OF THE "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS TO FORCE ANC/ZANU AND ANC/ZAPU TO RECOGNIZE FOUR YOUNG FREEDOM FIGHTERS AS THE TRUE HEIRS OF POLITICAL POWER IN ZIMBABWE. ALL OF THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS WERE OUTRAGED BY THIS "BLATANT ATTEMPT" TO FORCE THEM OUT OF THE POLITICAL PICTURE. FOUR YOUNG MILITARY LEADERS WERE REJECTED OUT OF HAND AS USURPERS BY ALL TRADITIONAL POLITICIANS. MILITARY LEADERS DID NOT HELP THEIR CASE BY CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN AN INSULTING FASHION TOWARDS NOT ONLY ZIMBABWEAN POLITICIANS BUT THE "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS AS WELL. PRESIDENT KHAMA WAS STRONGEST VOICE AMONG FIVE PRESIDENTS IN URGING THAT PRETENTIONS OF MILITARY LEADERS BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND. NDLOVU SAID KHAMA ARGUED FORCEFULLY FOR NKOMO AS THE ONLY TRUE NATIONAL LEADER OF ZIMBABWE AND AGAINST ANY SUPPORT FOR MILITARY LEADERS AS FUTURE RULERS IN ZIMBABWE. NDLOVU SAID FLATLY THAT NYERERE AND MACHEL WERE THE TWO WHO HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEMPTED TO SELL THE IDEA THAT THE FOUR YOUNG FREEDOM FIGHTERS WERE THE FUTURE POLITICAL HOPE FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

4. ASKED IF ANY SORT OF UNITY AMONG ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL FACTIONS HAD COME OUT OF DAR, NDLOVU REPLIED YES. WHILE POLITICIANS HAD NOT AGREED TO BYRY THEIR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND PRESENT A UNIFIED ANC FRONT,

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THEY AGREED THAT BOTH ANC/ZANU AND ANC/ZAPU FACTIONS MUST WORK TOGETHER IN SUPPORTING THEIR MILITARY ARM -- ZIPA. NDLOVU HAD NO SUGGESTION ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE WORKED OUT IN A PRACTICAL WAY.

5. AS FOR SITHOLE'S DEPARTURE FROM THE ANC, IT HAD NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. SITHOLE WOULD TAKE VERY FEW IF ANY ZANU PEOPLE WITH HIM. SITHOLE'S DEFECTION CAME AS NO SURPRISE. THERE HAD BEEN FRICTION BETWEEN SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA FOR YEARS. FURTHER, SITHOLE AND MUGABE HAVE NEVER GOTTEN ALONG. THEN TOO, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS OF LATE THAT SITHOLE HAD BEEN MAKING OFF WITH PARTY FUNDS.

6. NYERERE IS DEALING WITH THE AMERICANS IN A DEVIOUS FASHION. HE PRETENDS TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN PEACE INITIATIVES WHILE SPREADING DISUNITY AMONG THE ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. NYERERE IS NOT INTERESTED IN A TRULY NATIONAL LEADER COMING TO POWER IN ZIMBABWE, SINCE HE COULD NOT CONTROL A TRUE NATIONALIST. HIS DRIVE FOR POWER AND INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS PUSHING HIM TO PROMOTE A MAN OF HIS CHOICE FOR ULTIMATE LEADERSHIP IN ZIMBABWE. HE WANTS TO HAVE THE SAME DOMINANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE AS HE HAS WITH MACHEL. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT NDLOVU SAID HE WANTED TO CAUTION THE US AGAINST TRUSTING NYERERE AND MENTIONED THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT DISUNITY AMONG THE ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL LEADERS WAS PLAYING INTO NYERERE'S HANDS.

COMMENT: WE CANNOT EVALUATE THE RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION OFFERED BY NDLOVU. WE SUSPECT THERE IS
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GOOD FOUNDATION FOR HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS BEING OUTRAGED BY THE FOUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS BEING OFFERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THEM AS FUTURE LEADERS IN ZIMBABWE. HIS CLAIM THAT ALL OF THE "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS ACCEPTED NKOMO AS THE ONLY ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL LEADER WITH A NATIONAL FOLLOWING IS SUSPECT. HIS CONCERN OVER NYERERE'S DEVIOUSNESS IS TO BE EXPECTED, COMING AS IT DOES FROM AN NKOMO SOURCE.
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANC/NKOMO VIEW OF DAR ES ES SALAAM UNITY TALKS NAIROBI FOR SCHAUFELE SUMMARY: EDWARD NDLOVU CLOSE CONFIDANT OF JOSHUA
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, XJ, ANC, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE DAR ES SALAAM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006